

U.S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration Apprenticeship Training, Employer and Labor Services Washington, D.C. 20210	Distribution: A-541 Hdqtrs A-544 All Field Tech A-547 SD+RD+SAC+; Lab.Com	Subject: Code: 200 New Apprenticeable Occupation Surgical Technologist
Symbols: DSNIP/FDK		Action: Immediate

**PURPOSE:** To transmit to the Office of Apprenticeship Training, Employer and Labor Services (OATELS), Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training (BAT) staff the recognition of a new apprenticeable occupation:

Surgical Technologist  
DOT Code: 079.374.002  
O\*NET/SOC Code: 29-2055.00  
RAIS Code: 1051  
Training Term: Competency Based

**BACKGROUND:** Apprenticeship and Training Representative Lymus Capehart submitted the occupation on behalf of the Alaska Native Medical Center/Operating Room. The OATELS Administrator approved the Surgical Technologist as a new apprenticeable occupation on March 12, 2003.

A suggested work process schedule and related instruction outline is attached for your information.

The Surgical Technologist will be added to the list of occupations recognized as apprenticeable by OATELS when the list is reissued.

**ACTION:** OATELS staff should familiarize themselves with this new occupation.

If you have any additional questions please contact Franchella Kendall (202) 693-3813.

Attachment

**WORK PROCESS SCHEDULE  
SURGICAL TECHNOLOGIST  
DOT CODE: 079.374.002  
O\*NET CODE: 29-2055.00  
RAIS: 1051  
TERM: Competency Based**

**Occupational Description**

Transports preoperative and postoperative patients and related records to and from the operating room. Performs safety checks and operator preventive maintenance on equipment and fixtures. Prepare surgical suite in setup and opening instruments and supplies. Assist anesthesia staff with patient positioning and anesthesia administration. Applies principles of asepsis, infection control, and medical ethics. Receives, decontaminates, and cleans soiled patient care items. Stores, maintains, and distributes sterile patient care items. Assist in the preparation of records, reports and requests. Prepares and transports specimens to the laboratory. **Performs scrub duties:** Scrubs hands, and arms, dons sterile gloves and gown. Prepares and maintains sterile field. Counts sponges, needles, instruments, and related items in accordance with current standards of practice. Assists the operative team with donning sterile gowns and gloves, and applying sterile drapes. Passes instruments, sutures, and other supplies to the operative team. Anticipates surgeon's needs and provides additional assistance as required. Cares for surgical specimens on the sterile field. Cleans and prepares instruments and reusable supplies for decontamination and terminal sterilization. **Performs basic nursing duties:** Assists surgeon and nursing staff with monitoring and recording vital signs. Assists in the administration of oxygen, helps arouse patients, and assists with carrying out surgeon's orders. Assists with identifying and managing complications.

**ON-THE-JOB TRAINING**

**APPROX. TRAINING  
HOURS**

**1. PREOPERATIVE**

**A. Patient Care Concepts**

**1000**

Biopsychosocial needs of the patient.  
Preoperative routines.  
Patient identification. Transportation.  
Review of the chart.  
Consent. Transfer. Anesthesia concepts.  
Positioning. Urinary catheterization.  
Skin preparation.

**B. Nonsterile Responsibilities**

Attire. Case selection. Equipment.  
Instrumentation. Room preparation.

<p><b>C. <u>Sterile Responsibilities</u></b>  Asepsis and sterile technique. Scrubbing  Gowning and gloving. Preparation  of the sterile field. Counts. Draping.  Preoperative case management.</p>	
<b>2. INTRAOPERATIVE</b>	<b>1000</b>
<p><b>A. <u>Patient Care Concepts</u></b>  Homeostasis. Emergency procedures.  Surgical wound classification.</p> <p><b>B. <u>Nonsterile Responsibilities</u></b>  Monitoring the sterile field.  Documentation. Specimen care.</p> <p><b>C. <u>Sterile Responsibilities</u></b>  Intraoperative case management.  Abdominal incisions.  Hemostasis. Exposure. Catheters and drains.  Tissue approximations. Surgical dressings.  Wound healing.</p>	
<b>3. POSTOPERATIVE</b>	<b>500</b>
<p><b>A. <u>Patient Care Concepts</u></b>  Death and dying. Discharge planning.  Health and wellness. Post anesthesia care unit (PACU).</p> <p><b>B. <u>Nonsterile responsibilities</u></b>  Decontamination/disinfection.  Reprocessing. Sterile  storage and distribution.</p> <p><b>C. <u>Sterile responsibilities</u></b>  Postoperative care management</p>	
<b>4. INTEGRATION</b>	<b>500</b>
Basic, intermediate, advanced, and related surgical interventions	
<b>5. APPLICATIONS</b>	<b>1000</b>
Case levels (procedures) assisted	
<b>TOTAL HOURS</b>	<b>4000</b>

## **SURGICAL TECHNOLOGIST**

<b>RELATED INSTRUCTION OUTLINE</b>	<b>APPROXIMATE HOURS</b>
<b>Basic Science</b>	<b>150</b>
Anatomy and Physiology	
Pathophysiology	
Microbiology	
<b>Related Science</b>	<b>150</b>
Pharmacology	
Anesthesia	
Medical Terminology	
<b>Biomedical Science</b>	<b>150</b>
Computer skills	
Electricity	
Physics	
Robotics	
<b>TOTAL HOURS</b>	<b>450</b>